

Larry Tredway, Galva, underwent radiation treatment for prostate cancer using Trilogy in July.



A NEW LEVEL OF

# PRECIS

# When Larry Tredway faced radiation treatment, Trilogy technology reduced his side effects



Claudia Perez-Tamayo, M.D.

After having his prostate removed due to cancer in March of 2009, Larry Tredway, Galva, hoped that the surgery would cure him. His urologist felt that the cancer had been caught early enough and hadn't spread to other parts of his body.

"The doctor said everything looked good after surgery, and everything went as planned, but it's one of those things you never know for sure," Tredway says.

Initial prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood tests looked good following surgery. But as the months passed, blood tests revealed an elevating level of PSA, indicating cancer could still be present.

Tredway's urologist recommended he undergo radiation treatment to the prostate bed, or area surrounding where his prostate had been, as an aggressive follow-up measure.

He sought treatment at Salina Regional's Tammy Walker Cancer Center where he found some of the latest technology had recently been implemented to deliver highly targeted radiation therapy directly to cancerous tissue.

## IMAGE-GUIDED TREATMENT

The new Trilogy system uses CT imaging to verify tumor positioning and direct radiation only to

areas intended for treatment. The technology is called stereotactic radiotherapy and provides the ability to track and target slight movements of tissue during the treatment process.

Each time a patient lies down on a treatment table, there is a chance the tumor can move slightly as surrounding organs and tissue settle into position. In the case with prostate treatment, a filling bladder can cause subtle shifts to the intended treatment area. Stereotactic radiotherapy allows compensation for these types of scenarios.

Greater accuracy of treatment equates to less healthy tissue being affected by radiation and fewer side effects for patients.

"I didn't experience any side effects," Tredway says. "I may have felt a little tired after treatment, and I'd go home and take a 30 minute nap, but nothing bad."

The 71-year-old continued working throughout treatment and was in his Truck Insurance Mart office in Galva by noon each day.

## PATIENTS CAN BREATHE EASILY

Tredway's radiation treatment regimen concluded in July and doctors will have to closely monitor his progress in months to come, but results are encouraging.

"Larry's treatment went really well," says Claudia Perez-Tamayo, M.D., radiation oncologist at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center. "His minimal side effects speak well for the accuracy of this technology."

Another capability coupled with the Trilogy system allows compensation for breathing

motion. A respiratory gating system can synchronize radiation delivery with a patient's normal breathing cycle. As lungs expand and contract during breathing, organs and tissue within the abdomen also shift slightly with each breath. This can be especially useful for lung and abdominal cancers.

## SURGICAL CAPABILITIES

The precision available with Trilogy makes it possible to deliver higher concentrations of radiation in fewer treatments. It is similar to CyberKnife and Gamma Knife technologies in that Trilogy can pinpoint tumors in inoperable areas of the body and brain in just one treatment.

"The radiosurgery capabilities of Trilogy allow us to treat extremely small spaces with high-dose rates that can effectively kill the cancerous cells immediately," Perez-Tamayo says. "It's only used for certain types of cancers, but can be an effective tool when the location of a tumor makes it otherwise inoperable, like in certain cancers in the brain and spine."

While Tredway knew nothing about the capabilities of Trilogy before he walked through the doors of the Tammy Walker Cancer Center, he can attest to the fact that its accuracy likely played a role in his positive treatment experience.

"I'm glad we have this technology available in Salina," he says. "It's been a great experience and the atmosphere has been remarkable. I'm impressed with how the staff members work together. They go out of their way to make sure you're comfortable and work to make sure your treatment goes great." ❏

Get the Facts  
If you want more information about the treatment options available at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center, visit [srhc.com/Services/Cancer](http://srhc.com/Services/Cancer) and read our list of commonly asked questions.

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